

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) An endoscope imaging apparatus comprising:

an optical part moving mechanism for moving an imaging optical unit or an imaging element in an optical axis direction to thereby perform a focus adjustment or a zooming adjustment, wherein:

a tubular member having an elastic force is disposed in a part of a power transmission system for transmitting a power to the optical part moving mechanism; and the power for moving the optical part moving mechanism originates from a rotary power source.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An endoscope imaging apparatus, comprising:

an optical system including at least one optical lens for obtaining an optical image of a subject;

an optical system support member for supporting the optical system;

an imaging element for capturing an optical image from the optical system;

an imaging element support member for supporting the imaging element;

a tubular member comprising a first end and a second end that oppose each other, the tubular member defining an inner space extending therethrough and between the first end and the second end, the optical system support member being hermetically joined to the first end and the imaging element support member being hermetically joined to the second end in order to airtightly seal the inner space, the tubular member further comprising an airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting ~~a hollow bellows~~ portion between said first and second ends adapted to maintain the airtight seal of the inner space in response to relative movements of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member and adapted to allow adjustment of relative positions of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member, the airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting ~~hollow bellows~~ portion expanding and contracting for distance adjustment and deforming for position adjustment such that ~~that~~ an optical axis of said at least one optical lens of the optical system support member and an optical axis of an imaging surface of said imaging element of the imaging element support member ~~oppose~~ coincide with each other in the tubular member; ~~a central axis of the hollow bellows being substantially in line with a central axis of the tubular member;~~

an adjustment mechanism for adjusting relative positions of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member in three dimensions, said three dimensions being a direction of the optical axis optical system, a direction orthogonal to the direction of the optical axis and a tilt direction to the optical axis and for maintaining a state of adjustment after performing the adjustment; and

an adjustment frame having the adjustment mechanism disposed through the adjustment frame, the adjustment frame connecting the optical system support member and the imaging element support member so as to form a space where a deformed part of the airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting hollow bellows portion in the direction orthogonal to the direction of the optical axis which is caused by movements of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member is located.

19. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the optical system support member further comprises an optical system fixing portion for fixing the optical system and an optical system frame member defining an inner space in which the optical system fixing portion is located, the optical system frame member being hermetically joined to the tubular member.

20. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the imaging element support member further comprises an imaging element fixing portion for fixing the imaging element and an imaging element frame member defining an inner space in which the imaging element fixing portion is located, the imaging element frame member being hermetically joined to the tubular member.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the adjusting mechanism moves the optical system support member relative to the imaging element support member.

23. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the adjusting mechanism moves the imaging element support member relative to the optical

system support member.

24. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the adjusting frame moves the optical system support member and the imaging element support member relative to each other.

25. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the adjusting frame moves the optical system support member relative to the imaging element support member.

26. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the adjusting frame moves the imaging element support member relative to the optical system support member.

27. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the optical system support member comprises an optical system fixing portion for fixing the optical system and an optical system frame member defining an inner space in which the optical system fixing portion is located, the adjusting frame moving the optical system frame member relative to the imaging element support member.

28. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the imaging element support member comprises an imaging element fixing portion for fixing the imaging element and an imaging element frame member defining an inner space in which the imaging element fixing portion is located, and wherein the adjusting frame moves the imaging element frame member relative to the optical system support member.

29. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, further

comprising a filter unit located in the inner space of the tubular member and between the optical system and the imaging element for selecting one of a plurality of observation states.

30. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of observation states comprise a normal light observation state, an enlarged observation state, and a fluorescent light observation state.

31. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the filter unit defines an opening for the normal light observation state.

32. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the filter unit defines an opening.

33. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the filter unit defines a plurality of openings, each of the plurality of openings comprising one of a filter and a lens.

34. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the filter unit is hermetically joined to the tubular member thereby airtightly sealing the inner space of the tubular member.

35. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the filter unit defines a plurality of openings and comprises a plurality of filters, at least one of the plurality of openings or one the plurality of filters being selected according to the observation state, and

the endoscope imaging apparatus further comprises a filter unit moving mechanism to move the filter unit in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the optical axis of the optical

system to change the observation state while maintaining the hermetic seal of the inner space of the tubular member and position one of the plurality of filters or one of the plurality of openings on the optical axis according to the observation state.

36. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the adjustment mechanism is located outside of an airtightly sealed area formed from the tubular member, optical system support member and image element support member.

37. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the adjustment mechanism includes a plurality of screws disposed through the adjustment frame.

38. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of screws are disposed through the adjustment frame and abut against an external surface of the optical system frame member.

39. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 38, wherein each of the plurality of screws is adapted to rotate to move the optical system frame member in an axial direction, orthogonal direction to an optical axis and a tilt direction.

40. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of screws are disposed through the adjustment frame and abut against an external surface of an image element frame member.

41. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 40, wherein each of the plurality of screws is adapted to rotate to move the image element frame member in an axial direction, orthogonal direction to an optical axis and a tilt direction.

42. (Currently Amended) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the imaging element support member and the optical system support member are separated by the airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting hollow bellows portion.
43. (New) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting is a bellows portion formed into a tubular body.
44. (New) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the bellows portion is airtightly sealed.